Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for processing data ~~about~~ regarding the three-dimensional shape of a dental prosthesis ~~(14)~~, the method comprising the steps of:

   a) providing input data which represent a three-dimensional surface of the tooth stump ~~(10)~~ prepared for the prosthesis ~~(14)~~;

   b) providing ~~minimal~~ stability requirements for the prosthesis ~~(14)~~;

   c) generating control data from said input data, said control data representing a control surface which meets the ~~minimal~~ stability requirements:

   d) generating design data which represent the three-dimensional shape of the prosthesis ~~(14)~~; and

   e) displaying the shape of the prosthesis ~~(14)~~ together with the control surface on a monitor;[[:]]

   wherein

   ~~f)~~ the design data are modified by the user based on a visual comparison of the displayed design data and the displayed control surface in order to meet the ~~minimal~~ stability requirements; and

   ~~g)~~ the ~~actual~~ design of the prosthesis ~~(14) which~~ correspond~~s~~ing to the modified design data is displayed on the monitor together with the control surface.

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein in step d) the design data are generated from the input data.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the outer surface of the prosthesis ~~(14)~~ is scaled differently in at least two spatial axes such that a given preparation margin ~~(16)~~ remains thereby unchanged.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the control surface ~~exactly~~ meets the ~~minimal~~ stability requirements.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, being performed using a computer program.

6. (currently amended) A ~~D~~data processing system for performing a method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, comprising:

[[-]] (a) an input device for the data required in the method;

[[-]] (b) a central unit connected to the input device, the program for processing the data according to the method running on the central unit; and

[[-]] (c) a display device connected to the central unit for the design of the prosthesis ~~(14)~~ and the control surface.

7. (currently amended) A ~~C~~computer program being adapted to perform the method according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~- 5~~.

8. (currently amended) A ~~C~~computer program that, when run on a computer, performs the method according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 5~~.

9. (currently amended) A ~~C~~computer program comprising instructions that perform the method according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 5~~.

10. (currently amended) A ~~C~~computer program implementing the method according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 5~~.

11. (currently amended) A ~~D~~data carrier carrying a computer program according to any of claims 7 - 10.